

Rabbi Barenbaum Speaks

Rabbi Michael Barenbaum of Congregation Rodef Shalom in San Rafael will speak at our Shabbat services on Friday, March 10. Rabbi Barenbaum, an active leader in the Jewish community and a longtime friend of our congregation, is a warm and inspiring speaker. Rabbi Kahn spoke at Rodef Shalom last spring and we are honored to welcome Rabbi Barenbaum on his reciprocal visit to our synagogue.

Petitioning for 1989 Elections

The Elections Committee is nominating candidates for our 1989 congregational elections. The voting will take place at the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 21. Open positions will be president, vice president, treasurer, recorder, and five two-year terms on the Va'ad.

If you are a member in good standing, wish to run, and have not been contacted by the Elections Committee, you may add your name to the slate. Simply send a letter stating the position for which you wish to run. Your letter must be in the synagogue office no later than 5 pm, April 6.

Passover Approaches

Seder 1989

Come, celebrate our Seder on Thursday, April 20, starting at 6:30 pm.

CSZ's annual Congregational Seder will again be held at Lehr's Greenhouse, following the great success of last year. As tradition dictates, we will celebrate together on the second night of Passover, Thursday, April 20. Based on the past few years, it will be another complete sell-out, so be forewarned.

You'll find a reservation form in this *Forward* which must be returned to the office no later than April 7, together with full payment. Just a reminder that we do offer subsidies for this function, and if you can help with a subsidy, please indicate so. Remember, space is strictly limited, so don't reserve too late.

We do need just a few willing volunteers for a few hours; if you can help, please contact Shirley Liberman at 863-7500 ext. 123.

Passover Preparations

Rabbi Kahn will lead a two-part adult education program, "Preparing for Passover," on Tuesday evening, March 4 and 11. At the first class, Rabbi Kahn will lead "Personalizing the Seder," a discussion of the themes of the Passover Haggadah and how you can make your own Seder richer and more meaningful.

Often our observance of Passover ends when the Seder concludes. But on March 11, Rabbi Kahn will lead "Continuing the Journey: The Spirituality of Pesach," a discussion of how to expand and deepen our observance of the entire Passover holiday. Both sessions will begin at 8:30 pm in the synagogue library. These programs are open to all, free to members, \$3 per session for non-members. For more information, please call the office.

Cushion Our Tushes

After many months of planning, we are beginning a fund-raising program to cushion the pews in the sanctuary. The money we raise will benefit the congregation's Endowment Fund. Each pew will contain a small 3x5-inch plaque which will say:

Cushion provided through
the generosity of
name(s) or committee (with year)

There are 18 pews and the donation is \$300 per pew. This has been so long in coming ... and so needed, that we expect more requests than we have pews. Therefore, all requests must be sent to the synagogue in writing by April 30. Expecting more than 18 requests, we will hold a drawing at the annual congregational meeting at the end of May. At the drawing, pew locations will be designated by the order drawn.

In March, the small pew in the rear of the sanctuary will be set up as a sample for all to see. Here are some additional guidelines about this fund raiser:

- Donations may be made by individuals, couples, families, or committees.
- Names will be limited as follows:
—No more than two individual names can appear;

Continued on page 7



Sha'ar ZaTV

I spent a few weeks sick in bed this winter with a bad cold, followed by strep throat, followed by the flu. (Luckily I won Leslie Bergson's chicken soup at the Chanukah party silent auction.) I recount my tales of illness not for sympathy, but to report on daytime TV.

When I'm home sick, I watch game shows. No *Geraldo*, *All My Children*, repeats of *Mr. Ed*, or even the afternoon movie for me. I am a game show addict and I've always been. When my school friends stayed home, they'd watch soaps or even do something worthwhile, like read. Not me—give me a host, a buzzer, a question and some prizes, and I'll be healthy the next morning.

With my recent illnesses, I watched them all. I memorized one show's phone number, and once, when very feverish, almost called to try out. Realizing how far gone I was, I shut the TV off and napped. But I came to realize how much the shows had in common with CSZ.

Card Sharks: Here, the host asks one player something like "how many Olympic athletes of the 100 we surveyed are still in shape?" The player picks a number, and the other player guesses whether the actual number is higher or lower. Surveying, although dumb in this context, is important for CSZ. Our Long Range Planning Committee will be seeking input from congregants in the months ahead through open meetings, surveys or both. To help plan our synagogue family's future, we must all participate.

Concentration: On this show, contestants try to uncover (and solve) a puzzle by matching prizes hidden beneath numbered squares. In every game, one prize is a great trip. How lucky we were this year to have as our grand prize in the Chanukah raffle a trip to Hawaii. No one had to embarrass himself or herself on *Concentration*.

Family Feud: Here, families compete against each other answering questions like "name something you'd find under the bed." Although the name implies family in-fighting, the game is the opposite. Families lovingly work toward a common goal, though they occasionally disagree and may even snap at one another. It reminds me of board meetings.

Gong Show: This show was on the air quite a few years ago, and should never have come back. While I was sick, I watched it only once, and then for only five minutes. But everyone was in costume, just like Purim! (We'll celebrate Purim on March 18. Come as Esther, Haman, Mordechai, or Uncle Miltie.)

Hollywood Squares: Contestants play tic-tac-toe. To earn an "X" or an "O," you must agree or disagree with a Hollywood celebrity's answer to a question. Sha'ar Zahavniks could fly to L.A., meet the stars and win money for the synagogue, but let's let folk singer Ronnie Gilbert perform a benefit concert for us on May 13.

Jeopardy: (My favorite.) *Jeopardy* players are given the "answers" to questions, and must respond in the form of a question. In the category the Bible, for example, an answer might be, "They were Solomon's parents." A player would respond, "Who were David and Bathsheba?" *Jeopardy* differs from other game shows—players win cash, not dinette sets, and can thus spend the prize on whatever they need. It's like a donation to the synagogue's general fund versus a donation to a restricted fund.

Password and Scrabble: These are word games. *Password* players give clues to their partners to guess the secret word. *Scrabble* contestants are given clues and letters, and try to guess the secret words. Contestants carefully choose their words, just as the language of our liturgy reflects who we are and what we stand for.

Price Is Right, Sale of the Century, and Wheel of Fortune: Contestants shop on these shows, buying items I'd never let through my front door (there's that dinette set again). Instead, I'd rather have *Out of Our Kitchen Closets* (\$12.95), or my own Sha'ar Zahav T-shirt (\$10) or sweatshirt (\$15). To get yours, call the office.

Relatively Speaking: Contestants are the relatives of famous people; panelists try to guess who the famous relatives are. Once a day, the relative and contestant appear together. If they stump the panel, they win a prize which they donate to charity. It was easy to see CSZ in this show; all we give to, and do for, the synagogue is tzedakah.

Win, Lose or Draw: This is a game of

Pictionary, which we played at last year's Advance. We had so much fun, maybe our newly reconvened Social Program Committee will have a Sha'ar Zahav Pictionary night soon. Someone want to help Marc Mencher out?

—Robin Leonard, President

CSZ
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 21
4 pm
Mark your calendars!

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Stephanie Hannaford, Henry Mach, and Leonard Brill (general editorial and production), Amy Blasenheim (photos), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Women's Chavurah

Theater Party

The Women's Chavurah has reserved seats to see A Traveling Jewish Theatre's presentation of *Dybbuk* on Saturday, March 25. The performance will be at the New Performance Gallery at 3153 17th St. (Shotwell, Van Ness and Folsom). Tickets can be purchased through the CSZ office for \$12 (a \$2 savings off the regular price). Please purchase tickets by March 17.

The performance begins at 8:30 and will be followed by a discussion with members of the cast. Please arrive any time after 7:30 to schmooze but no later than 8:15 to obtain your tickets. For additional information, call Ann Biderman at 648-5526. Thanks to Sylvia Weisenberg for help in coordinating this event.

Service

The Women's Chavurah is trying to coordinate a Friday night service led by women. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ann Biderman.

Meeting

The next meeting of the Women's Chavurah will be on Sunday evening, March 12 at 7 pm. This is your opportunity to bring your ideas for future events, discuss new possibilities, chat in a comfortable home environment, and nosh on dessert and beverages. Any women interested in the Women's Chavurah are invited to attend. The meeting will be at Ann Biderman's home in Diamond Heights; please call 648-5526 for directions or information.

Decadent Desserts

Desserts during Passover can be so dull. In anticipation, let's get together before the holiday for a decadent dessert party featuring Israeli dancing. This festive event will be held at the synagogue on Sunday, April 2 from 1 to 4. Join us for this caloric rush and subsequent burn-off. If you play your cards right, you may eat to your heart's content and not gain a pound. Donation is either one dessert or \$2.

Children's Chavurah

The Children's Chavurah Purim celebration will take place on Saturday, March 18. (Note: this is a change of date.) Come in costume! Purim activities will include a re-telling of the Purim story and a snack of the *hamantaschen* and juice. The Purim celebration will take place from 12 to 1:30 pm at the synagogue. Kadimah students should bring a bag lunch. All members of the congregation are welcome.

Jewish Women and Spirituality

The Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center presents a special Women's Day: "Weaving the Branches of our Lives: Jewish Women and Spirituality," on Saturday, April 8, 9 am to 9 pm, at the BRJCC, 1414 Walnut St. (at Rose Street) in Berkeley. The cost is \$25 for members, \$27 for students and seniors, and \$30 for the public. The cost of admission includes a catered lunch and dinner will be available for \$5.

You are invited to break from your routine to be nourished—mind, body and spirit—in the company of other Jewish women. There will be full participation in prayer, study and discussion, sharing meals and celebrating in song. Guest teachers will include women from different facets of the community—religious, mystical, educational, political, psychological and the arts.

Register early because space is limited. Child care (with advance request) will be available. Please note that the BRJCC is wheelchair accessible.

For further information and a brochure, please call the center at 848-0237.

Oneg Sponsors

During January onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 6 Henry Mach, in honor of the visit of his aunts, Mary Gelfman and Bess Kaplan
- 20 Sharyn Saslaffsky, in memory of Cheryl Orvis
- 27 Ken Burke, in memory of his father

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in February. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Nancy-Carol Adler

Beth Berkelhammer

Debra Friedland

Jeffrey Stevenson Jacob Miller

Diana Nahouraii, Nathan (11),
Reuben (6), and Ilana (2)

Lolma Olson

Jano Oscherwitz, and son Jonah

Ron Wilmot

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

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Purim Unmasked

Purim, the Jewish calendar's Mardi Gras, occurs on March 21. Sha'ar Zahav will have a Purim service and megillah reading on Monday evening, March 20, a Purimshpiel and party on Saturday evening, March 18, and a children's megillah reading on Saturday afternoon at noon. Our Purim service this year will be enhanced when we read from a beautiful megillah, on loan from Milton Estes to the synagogue.

Since most modern authorities agree that the Purim story is a fictional account, people often ask what the significance of this holiday is. Many of us think of Purim primarily as a children's holiday when we have a chance to wear costumes (a good reason for a party!); some object to the violence recounted in the Purim megillah and would rather ignore the holiday. Michael Strassfeld's wonderful book, *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary* (Harper and Row, 1975, highly recommended!), suggests several deeper interpretations of the Purim story besides a literary farce.

Purim is a day for wearing (and taking off) masks. At the core of the Purim story is Esther's bravery in choosing to come out—in order to turn the faceless enemy into a real person. She takes off her own mask and unmasks Haman's true character. What kind of privilege do we enjoy by hiding? At what cost? True meeting, the Torah teaches, occurs "face to face."

Purim, the "lightest" day of the Jewish calendar is sometimes paired with Yom Kippur, the "weightiest." *Yom Ki-Pur* can be translated as "the Day like Purim." On Yom Kippur, we suspend our ordinary life-activities, avoid sensual pleasure, in order to gain new perspective. On Purim, we are invited to the opposite extreme. Purim, which comes mid-way through the Jewish year, is the opposite pole from Yom Kippur. Purim is a day of release from constraint and self-control "when the superego is pushed aside by an untrammelled id." After the pendulum swings to its furthest point, we return on each occasion to the challenge of living—balancing our needs for indulgence and release against the tasks of sincere self-evaluation and reflection.

The instruction to be wild on Purim is codified in a clear, legal definition: "one

should not be able to distinguish between Haman and Mordechai." Strassfeld says that from this state we can realize "how easy it is to change from Mordechai into Haman, from a crusader for justice into simply a crusader. That is why the Talmud says that we fully accept the Torah only on Purim, for only when we can mock the tradition can we fully accept it. Only then are we safe to do so; otherwise we make the tradition into an idolatry rather than a smasher of idols ..."

There is another important reason for Purim to be on our calendar. Everybody needs a break and not everything has to be explained, analyzed or probed. So let's have a party.

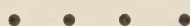
—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

P.S. We may turn our liturgy, Torah and God upside down on Purim, but we don't stop being Jews! An important Purim mitzvah is *mishloach manot*—the exchanging of gifts of food with friends. Buy something special for the food baskets on Purim. Even better, put a basket or plate together and deliver it yourself. I know you don't always have time in your busy schedule to do this; that's why it is especially important for you to do it ...



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Passover Classes, Etc.

As a follow-up, the Education Committee reminds the congregation of three spring classes. "Prayerbook Hebrew"—a class for anyone who can read the alphabet and has always wanted to know what it means. This two-part, 12-class series will concentrate on the prayers and passages in our liturgy. Rabbi Yoel Kahn will be teaching from the textbook *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way* and lessons will include plenty of games, music and laughter to help make your learning fun! The first part (six classes) begins on March 7 and runs until April 11. The second part (another six classes) begins on May 2 and runs through June 6. Classes are from 7:30 to 8:30 pm and are free to members, \$30 per part for non-members.

The second class, "Symbols and Themes of the Kabbalah," will discuss Kabbalah and how it reflects Jewish ideas of exile, teshuvah and redemption, as well as the use and meaning of Kabbalistic symbols in our contemporary Jewish lives. These classes begin on Tuesday, March 7 and will run through March 28 from 8:35 to 9:35 pm. On April 4 and 11, the topic will be "Passover." The class is free for members and \$15 for non-members. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

To enroll in any of these classes, please sign up by calling the synagogue office.

Office Notes

The office has received inquiries about sign interpretation for the hearing impaired. We would like to discover what resources exist in the congregation. If you can do sign interpretation and would be interested in volunteering your abilities for the congregation, please call the office.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Social Membership Roster is available to members in good standing for \$3. You can get yours by sending your check to the office. If we missed you in compiling our information for the roster and you'd like to be on it, please call us and we'll get you into the next edition.

Finally, many thanks to Francie McGowan for the new Hebrew poster of the Kiddush for our oneg room.

A World of Difference?

There is widespread disappointment of the Anti-Defamation League's "A World of Difference" (AWOD) campaign, a combination of media programming and educational materials aimed at fighting prejudice. Many in our community are angered by the ADL's decision not to include homophobia along with the racial, ethnic and religious issues discussed.

"In light of violence now directed at gays and lesbians," our own Rabbi Kahn stated, "it makes the education of young people about homophobia that much more urgent. [The ADL] is not willing to raise the issue of homophobia as a form of discrimination that is as bad as that based on race or religion. It is as if it is on a second tier."

ADL's Poor Track Record

Sadly, this is not the first time B'nai Brith's Anti-Defamation League has demonstrated lack of sensitivity to lesbian and gay concerns.

- ADL rejected its own staff recommendation to file an amicus (friend of the court) brief in *Watkins vs. U.S. Army*, considering the equal protection issue for gays "not their issue." On the other hand, the American Jewish Congress *has* filed amicus briefs in gay rights cases.

- ADL has presented awards for "promoting tolerance" to anti-gay bigots such as Boston's Cardinal Law.

- B'nai Brith's ADL threatened to sue the fledgling "Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation League" which was then forced to change its name to "Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation." (shades of the "Olympics" case!)

Nobody Too Different

Richard Hirschaut, director of the ADL's Central Pacific Region has been quoted as saying that people running the AWOD campaign "wanted materials that are not controversial and which most people can ... agree on."

In a time when judges and legislators denigrate the lives of gays and lesbians in ways they would no longer dare publicly insult Jews or blacks, the ADL has chosen to limit its mandate of opposing bigotry to "the non-controversial." Furthermore, by tapping into funding sources for the AWOD campaign (locally the Koret Foundation, Atari and Safeway), the well-established ADL has effectively denied funding to more inclusive human relations efforts.

Let Them Know How You Feel

If you are displeased by the actions of this Jewish-community identified "civil rights" organization, please let them know your feelings about discrimination against all people. Address your concerns to:

Rabbi Ron B. Sobel, Chair
Natl. Exec. Council ADL
823 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

with a carbon copy to:

Richard Hirschhaut, Director
ADL Central Pacific Region
121 Steuart St., #401
San Francisco, CA 94105

—Henry Mach

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Gay Men's Workshop

A nine-week workshop on "Gay Communities for the 90s" will be facilitated by CSZ member Henry Mach.

Beginning Wednesday, March 29, with a discussion on Gay Generation Gaps, this class is a free service of SF Community College's Castro-Valencia Extension. It will be held each Wednesday, 6:30-9:30 pm, at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St.

For information call Henry at 863-4910.

Ameinu

Ameinu is a national organization of gay and lesbian Jewish community full-time professionals. Ameinu includes rabbis, cantors, educators, social workers and others. Ameinu will be meeting in Toronto for a four-day conference this summer. If you would like to be on their mailing list, and/or receive registration information about the upcoming conference, please contact Rabbi Kahn at the office.

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To **David Israels** on the loss of his companion, Jeffrey Dixon Byers.

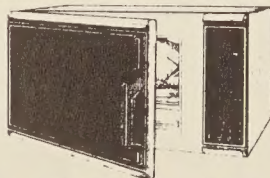
To **David Glassberg** on the loss of his friend, Bill Teeter.

To the congregation on the loss of its member, Steve Walters.

To the community on the loss of its friend, Chuck Hanson.

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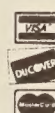
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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Richard Inlander, in honor of the marriage of Susan Horst and Fred Borg
David Gellman
David Delroy, in appreciation of the concern and caring he received from the congregation during his recent recovery from surgery
Richard Inlander & Ben Schalit
Lorelei Sontag
Jeanne Adleman, in loving memory of Barbara Rosenblum
Ron Lezell, in memory of Dorothy Gendell
 Donations in the memory of Shirley Keitel were made by:
Bruce Katz
Gerald Rosenstein
David Shaber
Roger M. Gilbert, M.D.
Alex Ingersoll & David Stein
Rob Tat
Garry Wood
Ron Lezell
Gerry Wood
Steve Elman & Tom Holt
Allan Berenstein

AIDS Fund

Paul Glackman
Ami Zusman

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Ann Biderman, in honor of Susan Stahl becoming chair of the Oneg Committee
Paul Cohen, in honor of Claudia Bernard's leadership of the Project Open Hand Christmas Day Program

Building Fund

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in memory of Shirley Keitel
Richard S., in honor of his new apartment

Education Fund

Shelley Montgomery & Cheryl Price, in honor of our son, Jacob's, first birthday

Library Fund

Allan Gold, in memory of Shirley Keitel

Prayerbook Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in memory of Shirley Keitel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Shelley Montgomery, in honor of the continuing recovery of Cheryl Price
Ron Wilmot & Frank Hyman, in memory of Shirley Keitel
Ami Zusman, in memory of Benjamin Hertzl Saperstein and Cheryl Orvis

Sanctuary Bond Fund

Ami Zusman
Peter Barnes

Social Action Fund

Ami Zusman

Torah Fund

David Glassberg, in memory of Joseph Glassberg
Don Albert, in memory of Shirley Keitel

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yearzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.



Birthdays

2	Donald Gordon
4	Brett Trueman
5	Edward Pollock
6	Adrianne Forshay
7	Allen Harris
8	Ann Biderman
8	Andy Zimmerman
9	Perry Paker
9	Jim Dobkins
9	Laurie Davis
10	Dana Vinicoff
13	Michael Frank
15	Russell Kassman
15	Rebecca Swisher
17	Roger Gross
21	Mike Abramson
21	Laurence Cohen
21	Jeffrey Shuman
23	Blanche Blachman
24	Jay Ladin
25	Lynn Bravewomon
28	Francie Hornstein
29	Harold Parker
30	Susan Greenspan



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Israel Update

Reform Burial in Israel

The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) has helped to win the right to establish Israel's first Reform cemetery. The cemetery will be open to all Israeli Jews (Reform or otherwise), and will permit families to select the religious ritual for the burial service.

Burial in Israel's cities is completely controlled by Orthodox burial societies, which give families little or no say in the funeral services, and compel burial in shrouds rather than caskets. Last year, the Israel Religious Action Center (sponsored by ARZA) established a Reform burial society. When its application for a permit was turned down, the center appealed to the Israeli Supreme Court. The day before the court was to hear the case, Orthodox authorities changed their position and approved the license. It is expected that the cemetery will be operating later this year.

Pursuing Justice: The IRAC Hotline

The Israel Religious Action Center has also established a hotline in Jerusalem that provides cost-free assistance to members of the public in the areas of consumer rights and social and religious rights. Arab residents of the West Bank and Gaza who feel their rights have been unfairly curtailed during the *intifada* by Israeli military authorities have turned to the hotline.

Open Forums

If you were unable to attend CSZ's fall education program on Israel or want an update on the important issues facing Israel today, a candid, open forum will be presented at various locations in San Francisco. Sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE), the Institute for Jewish Living and Learning of the SF Jewish Community Center (SFJCC), the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and the Bay Area Shlichim (Israeli emissaries), following is the schedule:

March 13—BJE Library, 639 14th Ave. at Balboa. The Religious Challenge: Who Is a Jew and What Is a Jewish State? A variety of approaches.

March 27—BJE Library. The Challenge of Creating a Government: Who Is Who and What Is What on the Israeli

Political Map?

April 10—SFJCC, California at Presidio. Women in Israeli Society.

May 1—JCRC, 121 Steuart. The Challenge of Settlement: Where, When, Why and How are New Settlements Created in Israel?

May 15—BJE Library. The Challenge of Peace: Different Attitudes Toward the Search for Peace.

All sessions are on Monday nights at 7:30 pm and are free of charge. For further info, call the Bureau of Jewish Education at 751-6983.

Amos Elon

The New Israel Fund is sponsoring the visit of a most engaging speaker, Amos Elon, on Thursday, March 16 at 8 pm at Congregation Sherith Israel, California at Webster. The public is invited at no charge.

Mr. Elon, one of Israel's foremost journalists and authors, will speak on "Democracy and the Zionist Dream." He is senior editor of Israel's *Ha'aretz* newspaper and has been its correspondent in many cities around the world.

—Ron Lezell
Israel Chavurah

Tushes

(Continued from page 1)

—A committee name (with the year 1989) is acceptable;

—Memorials or honors will appear as "generosity of friends of _____"

—For family donations, "The _____ family."

• 50 percent payment will be due within two weeks of notification and the balance due within six months.

Let's all help make these cushions a reality, and in the process save our tushes and contribute to the financial well-being of Sha'ar Zahav. Take part in this fund raiser by sending in your request now.

The congregation is grateful to David Stein for donating the fabric, to Ralph Frischman for his help in arranging the upholstering, and to the Building and Fine Arts committees for their participation. If there are any questions, please contact Don Albert, chair of the Finance Committee, at 641-5113.

Social Action Report

For many of us in Sha'ar Zahav, social action is an important way to express our personal beliefs in a supportive context, to feel that our religious and ethnic heritage as Jews and our lives as lesbians and gay men can come together in a way that will have an impact on matters of concern to us.

In the past year, the Social Action Committee has focused its efforts in two critical arenas: justice in Central America and for Central American refugees, and the struggle to ensure a responsible and fair response to the AIDS epidemic. We were active in the fight against Propositions 96 and 102, reaching out to other synagogues and publicizing the dangers of these initiatives in the *North-ern California Jewish Bulletin*. We organized an AIDS Activism panel, where community leaders shared their ideas and inspiration with our congregation. The committee raised over \$900 from the sale of Rosh Hashanah cards for the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition and collected food for Comida, the refugee food bank, in addition to sponsoring a special sanctuary service.

While continuing these efforts in the coming year, your Social Action Committee is also exploring new areas for involvement, including Israel and the Palestinians, homelessness, anti-gay/lesbian violence and discrimination, the plight of Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry, reproductive rights and more. We have already begun to formulate a response to the Anti-Defamation League's lack of sensitivity to lesbian/gay issues in its "A World of Difference" anti-violence campaign.

If you want to be involved in these efforts and have a voice in the direction we will take as a congregation acclaimed for its social activism, we have two ideas for you: make a contribution to the synagogue's Harvey Milk Social Action Fund so that our work can continue, and/or join us at our next meeting, which will be on Thursday, March 9, at 7 pm at the synagogue.

—Lisa Katz & Jonathan Mesinger
Co-chairs, Social Action Committee

MEMBERSHIP
feels good

February Va'ad Report

The February Va'ad meeting was one of the busiest in recent months. Despite the excused absence of five members, the Va'ad worked on several proposals as well as hearing reports from at least nine committees. The meeting, chaired by Eric Keitel (Robin was away), began with reports of letters thanking Sha'ar Zahav for contributions to the AIDS Food Bank, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the Shanti Project, and two letters praising our efforts at the monthly Sunday Kaiser Brunch.

Ben Schalit gave a brief overview of our budget. We are at the mid-point of our fiscal year and are running in line with our financial expectations. However, Ben reminded the Va'ad of the continued need for fiscal restraint. Expenditures for the rebinding of High Holiday Machzorim, the purchase of an office/entrance intercom system, and an industrial vacuum cleaner were approved. The Va'ad also voted to contribute \$500 to the UAHC to fund its AIDS education program.

At this meeting, several important policy matters were brought up for a vote. The board clarified our policy regarding political notices on the Social Action bulletin board. A sign at the top will state that items on this board may not reflect the official policy of Sha'ar Zahav and are presented for informational purposes. The board grappled with a proposal to modify our Kashrut policy. Kashrut, members decided, was too important to be voted on by less than the entire Va'ad. The proposal was referred back to the Ritual Committee to be brought again later to a full Va'ad. The Bylaws Committee sought Va'ad input on several bylaw changes. Since such changes are voted upon by the entire membership, no votes were taken at this meeting.

The board was asked for its views on amending the monetary threshold for expenditures requiring Va'ad action. Present limits require a Va'ad vote on relatively small sums. Several members favored the use of a percentage figure of the total budget rather than a set sum. A suggestion was made to differentiate limits by function.

A thornier issue is the need to get a quorum at the annual meeting. The

Va'ad suggested some changes in the agenda of the meeting to shorten its duration and thus increase attendance. The whole quorum question as well as write-in votes were brought up. For this year the only changes possible are those to the agenda. Proposed changes to the bylaws will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

The Va'ad discussed our response to the Anti-Defamation League's program "A World of Difference." This program, supposedly designed to teach tolerance, completely ignores prejudice toward gays and lesbians. The Social Action Committee reported that it is probably too late to change the program. The Va'ad called for a strong letter to be drafted by the committee, which would express not only our deep dissatisfaction with the ADL but also our demand that in the future, the ADL be more sensitive to this issue. If, as seems possible, the ADL continues its insensitivity, Sha'ar Zahav will look into coordinating future actions with those other organizations sharing our concerns. (Many Va'ad members wanted Robin to personally meet with ADL administrators.)

With considerably less passion, the Va'ad decided to: (1) hold our annual meeting on Sunday, May 21 at 4 pm, and (2) to continue oneg sponsorships at \$50. On the question of a pay telephone for members to use, the Va'ad weighed its obvious usefulness against its monthly costs and decided to look into the alternative of a separate second line-in for 415-area calls only.

The Membership Committee presented eight new members who were unanimously approved. The report of the Cookbook Committee elicited some suggestions for increasing our publicity while underscoring the very vital need to increase sales. Final report of the Chanukah Party Committee included suggestions for next year's party. The consensus of the Va'ad was that we look at an evening function next year as well as to begin now to look at possible sites and dates.

The Va'ad adjourned at 9:20 after much praise for Eric. This was Eric's first experience leading a Va'ad meeting and he did so most skillfully.

—Bill Goldstein, Recorder

Spirituality Chavurah Underway

At the end of January, the Spirituality Chavurah met for the first time and outlined a wide range of topics to explore over the coming months. These topics include spirituality in daily life, Sabbath and other holidays, meditation, prayer and Torah study, and Jewish literature.

March's meeting will be at CSZ on Saturday, March 25 at 2:30 pm when the chavurah will be exploring Shabbat. People interested in joining the chavurah are invited to attend. For more information, contact Larry Wexler at 523-6775.

—Jerry Hipps

MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.
Besides the benefits
it feels good to be
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

Sibling Notes

Bet Haverim (Atlanta)—is holding a weekend retreat (is that like an advance?) April Fool's weekend to "reflect over the past, revel in the present, consider the future and, of course, kvetch."

Bet Mishpachah (Washington, DC)—participated in an interfaith, interracial service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory on January 15.

Etz Chaim (Miami)—dedicated their newly renovated synagogue last month. *Mazel tov*, we wish them great success and happiness.

Mishpachat Am (Phoenix)—will be holding their second night Pesach seder on the fourth night, a Saturday. This allows them more flexibility and it means no one needs to rush home. A good idea.

Yachad (South Africa)—staffed the gay community center and gay advice bureau on Christmas Eve.

Yahrzeits

- 1 Marjorie Helbraun, aunt of Jenny Helbraun
- 1 Samuel Feldman, uncle of Neil Hart
- 2 Fannie Leiss, mother of Walt Leiss
- 5 Hilda L. Meyer, mother of Eve Meyer
- 6 Pearl Lewin, grandmother of Richard Inlander
- 7 Bennett Hornstein, brother of Francie Hornstein
- 7 (18 Adar) Antol Szekely, grandfather of Marilyn Kalman
- 8 Isidore Shapiro, father of Marilyn Braiger
- 9 Arthur Bellm, grandfather of Dan Bellm
- 11 Susan Palmer, sister of Walter Palmer
- 14 Betsy Sutzman, great-grandmother of Jay Davidson
- 15 Axel Schoenberg, grandfather of Johanna Johnson
- 16 Ariel Thal, father of Sam Thal
- 16 Ted Mendonca, lover of Richard Inlander and member of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
- 17 Mollie Golding, aunt of Neil Hart
- 18 Joseph Hornstein, father of Francie Hornstein
- 20 Minnie Tonn, grandmother of Allan Gold
- 21 Alan Vinicoff, father of Dana Vinicoff
- 22 Sylvia Vogel, mother of Lee Vogel
- 25 Nathan Hart, grandfather of Neil Hart
- 25 (18 Adar II) Joseph M. Cohen, father of Paul Cohen
- 27 James Robert Rankin, father of Mike Rankin
- 28 Minnie Prengler, aunt of Ann Biderman
- 30 Tillie Walter Markow, grandmother of Shelley Samuels
- 30 Rebecca Dunn, grandmother of Eileen Dunn

Editor's Note:

We want to know about and publish your naches. Please call the office with the information or Howard at 821-0332, so everybody can share the happy news.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Robin Leonard
Vice President, Eric Keitel
Treasurer, Ben Schalit
Acting Recorder, Bill Goldstein

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Don Albert
 Allan Berenstein
 Tiela Chalmers
 Steve Greenberg
 Merry Luskin
 Jose Luis Moscovich
 Alita Rosenfeld
 Jonathan Schwartz
 Dana Vinicoff
 Richard Inlander (ex officio)

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, Ken Burke
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Children's Education, David Gellman & Ida Kuluk
Cookbook Project, Sanford Friedman
Dinner Chavurah, Jerry Hipps
Education, by committee
Finance, Don Albert
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Susan Stahl
Past Presidents Council, Leila Raim
Personnel, Irene Ogus

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Ritual, Steve Greenberg; assistant, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger
Social Program, Marc Mencher
Spirituality Chavurah, Larry Wexler
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Jenny Helbraun
Secretary, Leticia Montealegre

Office Hours: Mon. 9-5; Tue. 1-5; Wed. 10-6; Thu. 9-5; Fri. 11-5.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

Naches

Congratulations to **Jonathan Mesinger**, who was named the San Mateo County Public Health employee of the month of January.

To **Ed Lopatin**, who has been elected to the Board of the American Jewish Congress.

To **Sue Saperstein**, on the naming of her new baby, Sofia.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Anniversaries

- 14 Diana Buchbinder & Joyce Garay
- 14 Marvin Steele & Rudolf Bean
- 20 Sandy Meyers & Maggie Rochlin
- 24 Martin Spector & Rodger Morales

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MARCH

מַרְחֶשֶׁת - מַרְחֶשֶׁת

1 Wednesday
24 Adar I
• 7:45pm, Jewish/Christian Dialogue at MCC

2 Thursday
25 Adar I
• 7:30pm, Long Range Planning Meeting

3 Friday
26 Adar I
Parshat Vayakhel Shabbat Shekalim
Mevarchim Chodesh Adar II
• 8:15pm, Services, Mike Rankin with the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble

4 Saturday
27 Adar I
• 9:30am, Kadimah, Bet Class

5 Sunday
28 Adar I

6 Monday
29 Adar I

7 Tuesday
30 Adar I
• 7:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
• 8:35pm, Kabbalah Class

8 Wednesday
1 Adar II
• 11:30am, Soviet Vigil, Green and Baker Streets

9 Thursday
2 Adar II

10 Friday
3 Adar II
Parshat Pekudei
• 8:15pm, Services, Rabbi Kahn, Daniel Chesir, and Rabbi Michael Barenbaum

11 Saturday
4 Adar II
• 9:30am, Kadimah
• 4pm, Healing Service

12 Sunday
5 Adar II
• 4pm, Ensemble
• 7pm, Women's Chavurah meeting at Ann Biderman's, 648-5526

13 Monday
6 Adar II
• 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

14 Tuesday
7 Adar II
• 7:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
• 8:35pm, Kabbalah Class

15 Wednesday
8 Adar II
• 7pm, Ritual Committee mailing party
• 7:15pm, Newsletter editing, 3676 17th St.

16 Thursday
9 Adar II
• 7pm, Building Committee
• 7:30pm, Social Action Committee
• 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim Committee

17 Friday
10 Adar II
Parshat Vayikra Shabbat Zachor
• 8:15pm, Torah Service, Leslie Bergson

18 Saturday
11 Adar II
• 9:30am, Kadimah, Bet Class
• 12pm, Children's Chavurah Purim Celebration
• 8pm, Purim Party

19 Sunday
12 Adar II

20 Monday
13 Adar II
• 7:30pm, Purim Services, Rabbi Kahn and Daniel Chesir

21 Tuesday
14 Adar II
Spring begins Purim
• 7:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
• 8:35pm, Kabbalah Class

22 Wednesday
15 Adar II
• 7pm, Committee Chairs Meeting

23 Thursday
16 Adar II

24 Friday
17 Adar II
Parshat Tzav
• 8:15pm, Services, Rabbi Kahn, Paul Cohen, and Bill Schlichter

25 Saturday
18 Adar II
• 9:30am, Kadimah
• 10:30am, Morning Service, Rabbi Kahn, Bill Schlichter, and Terry Rothchild
• 2:30pm, Spirituality Chavurah

26 Sunday
19 Adar II
• 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch, Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco
• 4pm, Ensemble

27 Monday
20 Adar II
• 7:30pm, Education Committee

28 Tuesday
21 Adar II
• 7:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
• 8:35pm, Kabbalah Class

29 Wednesday
22 Adar II

30 Thursday
23 Adar II
• 6:30pm, Ritual Committee
• 7pm, Newsletter mailing, 11 Grandview Terrace

31 Friday
24 Adar II
Parshat Shemini Shabbat Hachodesh
Mevarchim Chodesh Nisan
• 8:15pm, Services, Henry Mach and Leslie Bergson

7 Friday, April 7, 2 Nisan
Parshat Tazria, 8:15pm, Services, Daniel Chesir

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, April 20th
Lehr's Greenhouse Restaurant
750 Sutter Street

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

- _____ Members(\$20 each)
- _____ Non-members (\$22 each)
- _____ Children under twelve (\$8 each)
- _____ I want to reserve a private table for 11 persons.
(Full payment must accompany reservation)

Please indicate your choice of entrees (numbers of each):

- _____ Roast chicken
- _____ Smoked cross-rib of beef
- _____ Frittata (vegetarian)

Our synagogue subsidizes the cost of the Seder for children and individuals unable to afford the full cost. Can you help with this?

I wish to donate \$ _____ toward Seder subsidies.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC# _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

Mail to : Congregation Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Tickets will be held at the door. Signing for the hearing impaired can be requested when reservation is made. Information will be available at the Seder regarding CSZ's annual Passover Me'ot Chittim appeal, which collects funds to be distributed to various community organizations to help feed the hungry.

All reservations must be received by Friday, April 7.
For special requests - call Shirley Liberman 863-7500 ext. 123



ESTHER: A Model Queen

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Pre-Purim Party
(say that fast 10 times)

Saturday, March 18, 1989
8 - 11 P.M.



Come dressed as your favorite Purim Character

Your chance to strut down the runway in the latest Persian fashions
Wardrobe call: 8:00

Middle Eastern Nosherei and Hamentashen for sale
(Come early for the lowest prices)

*** D A N C I N G ***

On Purim we are expected to send gifts to the needy (Esther 9:22). In the spirit of the holiday, please bring food or household items for people with AIDS and/or make a donation at the door to our AIDS Fund.

Call Steve Elman to volunteer 651-5857



